AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) REPORT #1265 – NOV. 9, 2001

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1265 with a release date of Friday, November 9th, 2001 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T.

Ham radio leads the way at the New York City Marathon. This story is first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1265 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO AND SPORTS: - THE NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

Ham radio was once again at the start and finish -- and all along the route of this years 32nd running of the New York City Marathon. This years event was held Sunday November 4th and was dedicated to victims of September 11th terrorist attacks. Its theme -- “United We Run.”

The starting line was at the Staten Island Side of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. According to Stew Seit, WA2JNF, who was assigned there, it was a moment of total patriotism:

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WA2JNF: “On the bridge waiting for the cannon to go off, everyone began singing patriotic songs. It would brng a tear to your eye. There were 30,000 people singing. It was something to be seen.”
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But Seit and almost 500 other hams were there to provide communications for the event. And according to WA2JNF, even though there were lots of cellular phones, it was ham radio that was the communications backbone once again:

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WA2JNF: “Everyone was running around with digital radios, Nextel’s, cellular phones. But when the need came to get the message through they turned to us hams. Regardless of how many cell-phones or trunked radios they have tied around their necks, when the message was of priority nature, and they wanted to make sure it got through, they spoke to one of the hams who was handling the communications and we got the message through”
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The crowd lining the route was estimated at more than two million. Many were waving small American flags in memory of the thousands killed in the terrorist attacks.

ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, heads up the the ham radio communications for the Marathon. In fact, he has been organizing the ham radio effort ever since Amateur Radio became a part of the event many years ago. He says that for him, for the group of Amateur Radio volunteer communicators and for the people of the Big Apple, this years New York City Marathon was like none ever before:

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W2ML: ”It was truly a celebration of life. It was a way of saying to the terrorists: ‘look -- we are going on with our lives. You didn’t stop us. On the contrary, you united us.’ “
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Tesfaye Jifar of Ethiopia set a record in winning the mens catagory. He ran the 26.2 mile course in 2 hours, 7 minutes, 43 seconds. The old record of 2 hours, 8 minutes and 1 second was set in 1989. And as Jifar broke the record it was a corps of ham radio operators that guided him -- and the 30,000 other competitors in the New York City Marathon -- to a safe completion of this years run.

More on the Marathon is on the web at www.nyrrc.org. Our complete interview with Steve Mendelsohn W2ML can be downloaded from our FTP page by clicking on the newscast number at the top of the www.arnewsline.org home page. (ARNewsline(tm))

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RADIO AND SPORTS: THE SANTA CLARITA MARATHON

Sunday November 4th also saw another Marathon where ham radio played an important role. This one took place in Amateur Radio Newslines’s own back yard. It was the Santa Clarita 5 K Marathon and featured ham radio as it primary communications. Take a listen:

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Audio Here
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About three dozen hams from the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service and the Santa Clarita Valley Amateur Radio Club provided this years communications support. Most of it was on two meter F-M using the 146.79 MHz W6JW club repeater.

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Audio here
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The Santa Clarita Marathon may take place in a Los Angeles suburb, but it is by no means a small event. Several thousand runners take part and its course is USA Track and Field certified. In fact, this event is a qualifying race for the famed Boston Marathon.

More information on the event is at www.scmarathon.org. The Santa Clarita Amateur Radio club’s home in cyberspace is www.w6jw.org. (ARNewsline(tm))

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TECHNOLOGY AND RADIO RULES: FCC PUTS KENWOOD "SKY COMMAND" PETITION ON PUBLIC NOTICE

Turning to regulatory matters, the FCC has put a rulemaking petition from Kenwood Communications Corporation requesting that the government relax restrictions on Amateur Radio auxiliary station operation on public notice.

Amateur Radio Newsline’s Bruce Tennant K6PZW has the details:

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The FCC assigned the rulemaking number RM-10313 to the petition in which Kenwood asks the government to permit hams to use control methods like its own Sky Command radio remote system.

According to the ARRL Letter, Kenwood’s Sky Command lets a user control a fixed location High Frequency station using a pair of dual-band VHf/UHF transceivers on frequencies in the 70-cm and 2 meter bands. Kenwood wants a change in Part 97 rules that would expand permission to operate an auxiliary station on all 2-meter frequencies above 144.5 Mhz, except on 145.8 to 146.0 MHz.

And while not mentioning Sky Command by name, Kenwood says that the proposed rule change would allow the development and use by amateurs of new technology devices and increase the utility of the limited amateur allocations. Current FCC rules limit auxiliary operation to certain frequencies above 222.15 MHz.

In July 2000, the FCC declared that use of the Sky Command did not comply with Amateur Service rules--specifically Section 97.201(b). It also declined to grant a waiver make it legal. The ARRL commented in opposition to Kenwood's earlier efforts to have the system eclared to be in compliance, and it refused to permit Sky Command advertisements to be published in its QST magazine.

In its Petition for Rule Making, Kenwood asserts that auxiliary operation is poorly defined and significantly overregulated in the FCC rules. Kenwood also argues that present limitations on auxiliary operation no longer are appropriate in today's amateur environment and should be withdrawn.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Bruce Tennant, K6PZW.

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Again, the Commission has assigned the rulemaking number RM-10313 to the petition from Kenwood. Those interested may view and comment on it via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. (ARRL)

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BREAK 1

This is ham radio news coming to you from the United States of America. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world, including the New Orleans VHF Amateur Radio Club Net on the W5MCC 146.85 repeater serving my home town -- New Orleans, Louisiana.

(5 sec pause here)

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TECHNOLOGY AND RADIO RULES: DIGITAL WIRELINE REMOTE BASE OPERATION BEING TRIED IN THE UK

A British ham radio operator has been granted permission to experiment with a

digital wireline multi-band remote-base system. The experimental station was made possible by combining a popular H-F transceiver, the support of the national ham radio society and a cooperative government regulatory agency. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, reports from Nottingham in the U-K:

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Dave Gould, G3UEG, has received a Notice of Variation as a Special Research Permit to set up an HF station that is remotely controlled over the telephone network. This has come after 16 months effort liaising with the RSGB Licensing Advisory Committee and the Radiocommunications Agency and has been finally approved after a site inspection. The system is based on a Kachina 505DSP transceiver and Kachina's own specially-designed remote control system. The audio is digitised and then multiplexed with the control signals. The resulting single data stream is encoded and then passed over the telephone network using standard modems. At the remote end the data is decoded and the audio is split from the control signals and passed to the transceiver. The system will operate at a line speed of 28K or better and includes strong security, failsafe and shut-down measures.

Jeramy Boot, G4NJH
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While we in North America take wireline and radio remote-base operations for granted its new to many other parts of the world. Anyone interested in receiving further information or with ideas to assist Dave Gould, G3UEG, may contact him by e-mail at david.gould@btinternet.com (RSGB)

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ATTACK ON AMERICA: COMANDO SOLO DOES NOT WANT RECEPTION REPORTS NOW

If you are an SWL or ham who listens to shortwave -- and -- if you are planning to send a confirmation card to Radio Solo, the word right now is -- dont! This as the United States forces 193rd Special Operations Wing asks that reception reports and cassette tapes of its Commando Solo flying radio station broadcasts over Afghanistan not mailed to them at this time.

According to the Media Network e-newsletter there are two reasons. Obviously, they are involved in operations over a theater of war and need to lessen their peripheral workload. Also, due to the Anthrax scare in the United States, the U.S. mail system is overloaded with new safety procedures. In other words, your report may be indefinitely delayed or never opened. (Media Network E-Newsletter)

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ATTACK ON AMERICA: NYC TELEVISION SEEKS NEW HOME

Seven weeks after a terrorist attack caused the collapse of the World Trade Center, hundreds of thousands of homes in the New York City area remain unable to receive more than four television stations. Because the main antennas atop the north tower came down, all the local stations, except Channels 2 and 41, which had backup antennas on the Empire State Building, had lost a significant part of their audiences. The situation improved last week when two more of the stations that lost their main transmitters began broadcasting from the Empire

State Building site. Amateur Radio Newsline's Henry Feinberg has more:

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On Thursday morninng, October 31st, Tribune-owned WPIX-TV channel 11 switched on a transmitter giving it an over-the-air signal said to be similar to what it was prior to the terrorist attacks. WNBC-TV channel 4 -- which in the late 1940's was the first to broadcast from the Empire site -- made a triumphant return later the same day when it flipped the switch on its new Empire located transmitter.

As an interim step to get back on the air, most local broadcasters had opted to use the old Armstrong Tower located in Alpine New Jersey. But the Alpine tower is not high enough and is to far away from the majority of the New York City demographic audience to provide clear reception throughout the metropolitan region.

The Empire State Building was the home to almost all New York City television broadcasters before the World Trade Center was built. Many broadcasters want to return to it but the New York Times says that Empire has to little space and not enough electrical power to accommodate the demands of all the stations. So a coalition of 11 broadcasters in and around New York are exploring options that include sharing management of a broadcast tower built to their specifications and needs.

The Times says that the long-term situation may be the construction of an enormous stand-alone broadcast tower. One that is perhaps 2,000 feet high and preferably be somewhere near the World Trade Center twin towers site.

But broadcasters will face a large number of issues if they persue the stand alone tower idea. Chief among them are the wants and desires of the residents of New York City. Many of them have made it clear that the area where the twin towers once stood be rebuilt a both a new trade center and also as a lasting monument to those who died in the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001.

Not far from the Armostrong Tower in Alpine New Jersey, I'm Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Aside from the political issues mentioned in Henry's report there will be numerous other technical roadblocks. First is that of protecting the Philadelphia and Boston demographic television markets from interference. And if such a project is approved by the city at a different location, the Federal Aviation Administration will likely demand that it be built where it will avoid established flight patterns for local airports. And there are not very many of those in and around the metro New York City area. (ARNewsline(tm) from various published news reports.)

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ATTACK ON AMERICA: VERTEX STANDARD / YAESU DONATES GEAR

According to a recent story in the ARRL Letter, Vertex Standard, which manufacturers Yaesu brand gear, has donated several pieces of equipment to Virginia ARES. The manufacturer had arranged to loan an FT-7100 transceiver

and three of it's VX-5 hand-held's during the response to assist the Salvation Army at the Pentagon terrorist attack site. When the work concluded, Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Gregory, N4NW, e-mailed to thank the company and to inquire about returning the equipment. Vertex Standard Executive Vice President Mikio Maruya, WA6F told him that Virginia ARES was welcome to keep it on hand for future emergencies. The Woodbridge, Virginia, Ham Radio Outlet store cooperated in providing the Virginia ARES team with the needed equipment on September 13th. (ARRL)

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REPEATER COORDINATION NEWS: NFCB AND NFCC ELECTION RESULTS

The National Frequency Coordination Council -- or NFCC -- has elected Nels Harvey, WA9JOB as its new President. Harvey replaces Owen Wormser, K6LEW. Wormser had served as Chairman of the original drafting group that resulted in creation of the NFCC back in mid 1990's and as several terms as President.

Also elected to office are Dave Baughn, K4XI as NFCC Vice President, Dick Isely, W9GIG as Secretary and Clay Freinwald, K7CR as the organizations Treasurer. Meantime, Clay Freinwald, K7CR, and Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, have also been elected for two year terms on the National Frequency Coordinators' Board of Directors. Both ran unopposed. (ARNewsline(tm))

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REPEATER COORDINATION NEWS: SERA DROPS UNKNOWN CATEGORY

The South Eastern Repeater Association says that it has dropped use of the term 'unknown' for listing repeaters that it has little or no information on. According to the organizations publication Repeater Journal, the listing of about 150 repeaters as 'unknown' was intended to prod their owners to file delinquent updates or help clear the groups records of repeaters that are no longer on the air.

It did neither, but it did cause confusion for ham radio enforcement efforts. This occurred earlier this year when FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth cited the South Eastern Repeater Association's Unknown Repeater List as grounds for dismissing a complaint against an uncoordinated West Virginia repeater that had been accused of interfering with a coordinated system in Kentucky. The coordination counsel's FCC Liaison is reportedly working with Hollingsworth's office to clear up the confusion. (SERA Repeater Journal)

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HANDI-HAMS: WINTER RADIO CAMP IN MALIBU IN MARCH 2002

The next Handiham Radio Camp session will take place the first week of March, 2002, at Camp Joan Mier in Malibu, California. That camp will be offering classes in Technician, General, Extra, Operating Skills, and JAWS computing.

There is no tuition charge for West Coast or D-X members aside from the $45 registration and insurance fee. If you want to receive a camp application packet, please e-mail handiham@courage.org or call 1-866-426-3442 -- days -- Central Standard Time. The most current camp information is available on the Handiham website located in cyberspace at www.mtn.org/handiham. (Handihams)

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INTERNATIONAL – BAHAMAS: FEES GOING UP

The annual fee for those holding a Bahamian Amateur Radio license has increased to $25. According to the ARRL news, The new fee applies for licenses renewed after August 1. The cost to "catch up" on past renewal fees prior to 2002 is $6 per year. Some US amateurs with Bahamian tickets were surprised to get letters requesting the back renewal fees and threatening fines and revocation. According to Dick Long, C6AKE, the Bahamian Public Utilities Commission--which handles licensing there--collects $6 a year for the years your license has been expired--this has always been its policy, he says. If you don't plan to use your license anytime soon, Long advises returning it to the P-U-C or sending a letter stating that you won't be using it again. "If, at some future time, you want to return to the Bahamas, you can always apply for a new license," he added. The P-U-C e-mail address is puc@batelnet.bs. (ARRL)

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INTERNATIONAL - BELGIUM: A BLESSED EVENT

Hams in Belgium are getting to take part in a truly blessed event. This, as John Devoldere ON4UN who is the President of the Belgian national Amateur Radio society announces that nations radio amateurs can use the special prefix OQ instead of their usual ON or OT prefixes.

According to Devoldere, Belgian telecom authorities issued this special prefix on the occasion of the birth of Princess Elisabeth. The permission to use the OQ prefix began on October 26th, runs until December 31st. (RSGB)

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INTERNATIONAL - NEW ZEALAND: THE NATIONS HAM-STATS

The New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development reports that as of November 1st that nation has 3,295 General Class license holders, 1717 Limited license class, 24 Limited Novice and 25 Novice class operators. These hams share 205 voice repeaters, 19 television repeaters, 29 digipeters, and 42 beacon operations. Mix in two fixed licenses and the grand total is 5358 licenses issued. (NZART)

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BREAK 2

From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website - www.arnewsline.org.

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ISS TALKS TO NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL

Ten elementary school students from New York City had some very specific

questions about current events for International Space Station Commander Frank Culbertson. To the question, "What did it look like in New York on September 11," Culbertson responded that he could see the smoke rising from the World Trade Center site and drifting south.

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Culbertson: “On September 11th we happened to be coming over a few hours after the attack and I could see a large column of smoke coming out of the World Trade Center and floating off to the South and a kind of a fog of smoke all over the Southern part of the city.”
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Culbertson went on to explain that he took pictures of the tragedy from space. He further related that he found out about the event while talking to his doctor during a scheduled medical conference.

Another youngster wanted to know, "What does Afghanistan look like from space?" Culbertson answered that it appeared to be very desolate and rugged.

The questions could be expected. The children are students at P.S. 234, with its regular campus only two blocks from the site of the World Trade Center.

On September 11, all 650 students at the school and their teachers evacuated their building without a single casualty. The school community has stayed together despite the turmoil, and is now housed in temporary quarters elsewhere in Manhattan. Culbertson told the students that he admired them for their courage, and told them to continue to study.

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Culbertson: “ I want you to know that the whole world is very proud of you. Its to bad that you had to move from school to school, but we are very proud that you are continuing to work and take your education seriously. Things will be alright. Don’t worry.”
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The students asked a total of twenty questions during the ten-minute contact. Some thirty teachers and parents and reporters were also on hand as were reporters from the New York Post and New York Daily News newspapers.

The ham radio contact was made through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station project, an international coalition and was carried live by MSNBC on its website. Former NBC science editor and Newsline anchorman Roy Neal, K6DUE, moderated the event. Communication was handled through W6SRJ, a club station at Santa Rosa Community College in California, with Herb Sullivan at the controls.

P.S. 234 has its own website. Its in cyberspace at www.ps234.org/about.html (ARISS via K5YFL)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT-OSCAR 40 UPDATE

AMSAT’s Peter Guezlow, DB2OS, reports magnetorquing of the OSCAR 40 ham radio satellite is again in progress. Guezlow also says that operational periods for the RUDAK system have been extended recently. This, to allow downloading of

several important RUDAK G-P-S files.

AO-40 is currently in a long period during which the Earth eclipses the sun near the satellite's perigee. This actually began about August 28th, and will rapidly increase in length. The eclipses will continue well into June 2002. (AMSAT-NA)

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SPACE AND SCIENCE: A LOT OF BIRDS UP THERE

SpaceDaily reports a new survey by the Teal Group has identified some 600 active satellites in Earth orbit or in deep space. The survey factored in all satellites launched since 1980, and, after a process of elimination, arrived at an estimate of 600 to 610 for satellites that remain active today. (AMSAT-NA)

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DX

In D-X, you may recall that shortly after the September 11th terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, the government of Kuwait permitted its ham radio operators to the call sign 9K2USA. Now Bob Furzer, 9K2ZZ, reports a very positive response to the use of 9K2USA.

9K2USA was used by all Kuwaiti hams through September 30th as a token of the sympathy and support for the people of the United States from the citizens of Kuwait. It was also meant to be a statement of deep condolence.

Furzer now tells the Ohio Penn D-X Newsletter that the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society wants to thank all of those radio amateurs who e-mailed their support of the use of this special call. 9K2ZZ also says that the design of an official commemorative 9K2USA Q-S-L card has been finalized and is now posted on the website at www.k4cy.com. (OPDX)

From the U-K comes word of a new microwave D-X record. At least a new record for that nation. On Sunday October 21st the UK distance record for the 47 GHz band was raised from 163 to 203 kilometres. This happened when G7MRF and G0HNW, from Cambret Hill in grid I-O-74 had a two-way CW contact with G0IVA in gridsquare I-O-73 in North Wales. This distance comfortably exceeds the former record of 161 kilometres set in September 1999 by the same group. Reports of RST 519 and 419 were exchanged. (RSGB)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A MESSAGE TO REPEATER OWNERS FROM THE FCC

And finally this week, a word about repeater communications responsibility. It comes from the FCC's chief ham radio rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, and was included in a recent RAIN Enforcement Log Question and Answer session. If you own and operate a repeater, the next few minutes will be very important to you:

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First of all, no licensee is required by the [FCC] rules to set up a repeater.

When you do so, you do have certain responsibilities.

First, assuming that you have applied for and received coordination from your local repeater coordinating body -- if there is one -- and in a lot of areas there are not and in which case you would skip that step. As long as you are not interfering with a coordinated repeater, everything is all-right.

Once you start a repeater, you have to keep a few things in mind. First of all, if it is using your call sign -- it is your station -- and you are responsible for it. You do have a few alternatives as far as controlling it, but essentially it is your station and your responsibility.

The rule that states that you are not responsible for inadvertent transmissions I am afraid is often misunderstood. It only applies to inadvertent transmissions. [These are] transmissions that you let through on the repeater -- and I think it was designed for [modes like] packet anyway that you let through on the repeater before you realized what was happening.

Now, rules violations that occur by your users on a day-in and day-out basis or rule violations that go on for several hours are your responsibility as well as that of the users that are committing the violations. No dictionary in the world would define those types of situations as “inadvertent,” and I am afraid that a lot of people just do not understand that.

If you put a repeater on [the air] you are responsible for its proper operation. Now, if you can’t do that, or you do not have the time or the inclination [to properly control it], then your choice is to shut if off and to do something else. This is very important in these times because Amateurs are being listened to more than ever before.

Everyone seems to be buying scanners and short-wave radios. Very often a repeater is new person’s first exposure to Amateur Radio -- and a potential recruit -- I might add. And, very often, it is the news media’s first exposure to Amateur Radio.

If your repeater is an embarrassment to Amateur Radio, then you should shut it down and seriously examine your motives for wanting a repeater. You will be held responsible for regularly occurring rules violations, as well as the people committing the violations.

I would hope that more and more Amateurs would understand this. I think that the rule that you are not responsible for inadvertent transmissions has been misinterpreted by a number of people.

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What Hollingsworth really seems to be saying is that your repeater is kind of like your house and your surrounding property. Yes, you have responsibility to make your home secure for you and your family. You also have a responsibility to keep it and its surroundings neat and clean so that your neighbors will also enjoy the view. (FCC, RAIN)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, KC5MFA, saying God Bless America, 73, and we thank you for listening."
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